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MAGAZINE

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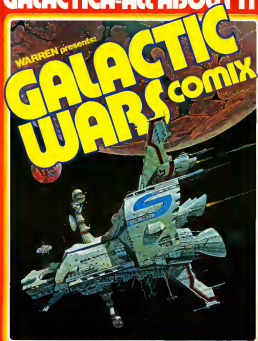
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CREEPLY

#105



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CREEPY

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ISSUE No. 105
FEBRUARY 1979

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VAL MAYERIK
GONZALO MAYO
ALEX NINO

4 DEAR UNCLE CREEPY Woad Issues #100, 101, and 102 hit the almost universal approval of our loyal Year Uncle Creepy. Is so pleased he's bustin' out all over with pride!

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Dear Uncle Creepy,

REPRINT STORIES: TREAT OR CHEAT?

I just subscribed to CREEPY and it is the best magazine. The stories always equal the art and the resulting tales are heart stoppers. You should put a warning on the cover!

In issue #100 "On Little Cat Feet" by John Jacobson was fantastic. It combined two horrors... witchcraft and the Medusa... in one fine story. This is something not seen very often.

Berni Wrightson's version of Edgar Allan Poe's story "The Black Cat" was the best. His art rivals Rich Corben's. All the other stories, as usual, were great.

I'm sure glad I got hooked on this magazine!

ERIC MATTY
Chesapeake, Va.

Issue #100 was fantastic! It reminded me of some of the earlier issues when CREEPY was at its best. I had been a faithful follower since issue #1 and so far I think CREEPY is the greatest.

I was glad to finally see the story "Angel of Doom" by Archie Goodwin, even if it was only a reprint! Berni Wrightson's "The Black Cat" was another reprint, but I was glad I enjoyed reading it again. I was also glad to see Ramon Tezanos artwork in this issue along with some of my other favorites like Richard Corben and Aureleon.

The best stories in this issue were "Book Worm" and "Angel of Doom".

I would like to see more stories from the older issues of CREEPY. How about an all Steve Skeates or all Tom Sutton issue?

BILL SHARP
Knoxville, TN.

It may not seem too noticeable, but you used the same Frank Frazetta cover art on CREEPY #97 that you did in EERIE #3. Why? Are you really that short on ideas? It kind of made me feel that I had bought a cheap reprint!

LYNDON THICKENS
Asthoria, Ms.

Issue #100 was great! "The Black Cat" was my favorite story and Berni Wrightson's art was really terrific. My second favorite was "Book Worm". It was nice to see Rich Corben work without an artbrush for a change. Corben has always been one of my favorites, but I always thought that his art depends too much on artbrush.

The cover by Walt Simonson and Kim Moquette was good and scary.

MIKE GULLIN
Lansdale, Pa.

I have an idea! Why not have an all vampire issue? I think a lot of readers would enjoy that. Or how about an all U.F.O. issue? I have been into U.F.O.s for ten years now, and I used to belong to the New England Saucer Research Club. I know a lot of people would get a real turn on by a CREEPY U.F.O. special.

KEN GILBERT
Peabody, Mass.

CREEPY has undergone one hell of a lot of changes in a hundred issues time.

Issue #1 was certainly visually impressive but with names like Jack Davis and Frank Frazetta, it couldn't help but be. The stories, however, seemed somewhat predictable, amateurish and more than a little reminiscent of the old E.C.s, especially to an eye jaded by modern movies and TV.

All of which leads me to an analysis of the 100th issue in plain and simple terms. I was surprised and delighted with the stories. I was especially pleased with the artists who worked on the issue: Russ Heath, Bob Layton, Pablo Marcos, Alex Mine and John Severin are all fine artists. Thus, they probably aren't of the caliber of Jack Davis or Frank Frazetta but, like I said, times have changed and guys like this aren't exactly available... especially at comic book prices.

MICHAEL WISE
Boonton, N.J.

I really enjoy CREEPY... usually it has its highs and lows, of course. One of its extreme highs was the story "Winner Take All" in CREEPY #100. I read this one a couple of times.

One of the lows was CREEPY #102.

First of all, when I see "giant monster issue" on the cover plus a cover price of \$1.75, I expect at least color and maybe a special appearance by one of your rare guest artists like Neal Adams, Jeff Jones or Berni Wrightson. The stories weren't all that bad—"The Thing in the Haunted Forest" was excellent. It was the art and the covers that were real disappointments. I totally agreed with David Bayington's letter in #102 when he expressed a preference for the more subtle covers of Ken Kelly, Sanjullian, Enrich and Frazetta.

My overall disappointment with this issue may be understood when you learn that the first thing to catch my interest was the Frazetta calendar in the ads.

STEPHAN LOECKE
Medfield, Mass.

Buz Vauter's art work has begun to grow on me, though I still find it somewhat limited. On a story like "Nobody's Home," it was perfect. I'm not sure, however, that it would work on a "straight" story... one with no aliens or science-fiction machinery. Still, I would like to see him try his hand at it someday.

Luis Bermejo's first color story was magnificent! He is one of the few artists on the Warren staff whose work actually looks better in color than in black and white. And he has a feel for sword-and-sorcery that other artists in the genre have never developed. Len Wein's "Winner Take All" script was also better than average for the type of tale. Not bad... and that from a reader who despises 75¢ 60% of sword-and-sorcery. **BRIAN GADIN**
Cincinnati, Oh.

CREEPY #102 lived up to its name. What a WEEHARD issue! I'm not sure I understand what the cover was supposed to represent. Outside of that, "Pantomime as Sea" was my favorite story...and I'm glad to see Buz Vauter has become a steady contributor or "Almost Shangri-La" wasn't bad, either. Leo Duranona's art really gave it an unreal look!

"The Thing in the Haunted Forest" had a fitting ending. I was reminded of some schlock-style horror tales by this one. (By the way, wasn't that art by Abel Lanzetta? No credits given.)

"Killer Claw" had potential, as well as great art by Walt Simonson and Klaus Janson (Janson's improving a lot lately) but somehow it didn't work. Mark Lasky managed to include a good deal of human qualities and interest, but the monster lobster itself wasn't handled too well. The ending lacking drama... plot wise.

On the other hand, "Night Eyes" (more from the incredible Alfredo Alcala!) was one of the best in the book. The suspense concerning what was killing off one man after another was built up really well. I found myself on the edge of my seat near the end and I was surprised that the "Phama" was really nothing more than a giant lion! Excellent! "Fair Prey" featured another truly terrifying "monster", as well as a decent mystery format. (What is this... giant lobster, giant lion, giant mosquito? Next you'll have a giant puppy who slays his victims to death!)

HENRY KUNAWA
Garden, N.J.

Dear Uncle Creepy,
c/o Warren Publishing Co.
145 East 82nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10016

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A SMALL KINGDOM OF OVERLAPSED WRETCHEDNESS, ITS SOUL WAS POOR, ITS WEATHER WORSE, ITS PEASANTS PATHETIC, ITS KING A BORE, AND ITS QUEEN A SHREW.

ONE DAY A FEARSOME DRAGON ARRIVED IN THIS UNATTRACTIVE LOCALITY, AND THE KINGDOMS ONLY KNIGHT WENT NORTH TO ENGAGE THE BEAST IN HOLY COMBAT.

HAVE AT YOU, ROLL CREATURE!

ROLL CREATURE, STOP! THE NAME IS SHRIVEL -- AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT! US DRAGONS DESERVE SOME RESPECT!

SHRIVEL



THREE COPPERS SAYS
SIR BLUNDERBUSS SLAYS
THAT DRAGON GOOD
AND PROPER.

YOU'RE ON



FOR GOD AND KING
CARRIAGE!

DRIVE
WHEELS,
SIR
KNIGHT!

THREE COPPERS
--PAY ME.



WHOOSH!

AAWWW!



TEN YEARS' SAVINGS --
GONE. NOW I'LL NEVER BE
ABLE TO BUY A NEW NOVEL.



MEANWHILE

WOMAN'S
WARRIORS
BOYIN
THERE?

THE DRAGON
HAS JUST
INCUBATED
SIR BLUNDERBUSS!



OH GOD--
MY POOR
BROTHER!

NOT NOW SON,
I'M BUSY. I WANT
TO WATCH THE
DRAGON PERFORM
YOUR UNCLE.

PICK A
CARD --
ANY CARD



THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT! MY BROTHER IS DEAD BE-CAUSE OF YOU-- YOU WORM!

YES, DEAR-- YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT



GIVE ME THAT TELESCOPE!



GOOD LORD-- THE DRAGON IS COMING THIS WAY!

WE'LL HAVE TO REAR THE DRAG-BRIDGE!

YES, DEAR-- YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT



THAT SCUMMNY MIGHT TASTED LIKE LAST YEAR'S LEFTOVERS-- JUST THE SORT OF INFERIOR MEAT YOU'D EXPECT FROM A BACKWARD COUNTRY LIKE THIS ONE.



WHEN I COULD FLY, I COULD DO ANYTHING. BUT MY ANKLES SUCKED AT MY NAME SECRET THROUGHS-- NOT BUT STAGGERED TANGIBLE LIKE THE ONE!



OH OVERSIGHT-- THAT'S MY PROBLEM-- TOO HEAVY TO FLY.

ONE OF THESE DAYS I'LL GO ON A DIET. THEN WE'LL BATTLE WATCH OUT THE OLD BRIDGE. YOU'LL BE BACK IN BUSINESS.











THE COMIC BOOKS

by Joe Francastelli

THE PARTY

10 P.M., AUGUST 15, 1978, THE PALM RESTAURANT, NEW YORK. Gwen Kestel is much too pretty and simply too talented to worry about anything, but tonight she leads the league in terror. She interrupts each bit of incoherent dinner conversation as criticism. She addresses lobster, but lobster can't even shell her own. She stares at the walls, but is totally oblivious to the fringe watercolorists drawn on them by some of the 20th Century's greatest caricaturists. Her long, well-manicured fingernails seem to have found a permanent home in the skin of my forearm.

"Jee-zh," she says between large sips of Grand Marnier. "You don't understand how crazy it has been the last few weeks. My job is on the line. That party is costing us so much—and what if those clocks don't sell? We're so far out on a limb! What happens if everything bombs?"

Gwen Kestel, who used to be the best businesswoman reporter in the world, in five weeks into her job as national accounts sales manager of the Barwood Products Company. As luck would have it, her first assignment is promoting five New Haven brand "Super Clocks" at a party tomorrow evening at New York's ultra-elite Studio 54 discotheque. Her career, she fears, rides on her ability to promote five unnamed clocks featuring Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, Spider-Man and The Hulk.

"Let me tell you," says her boss, Barwood executive vice president Peter Faust, "Gwen's really been up against it. We've all been up against it. Every time the comic people get involved with the design of the clocks, we have to spend days correcting their mistakes. Our standards are so much higher than theirs."

Welcome to comic books, Gwen Kestel.

2 A.M., AUGUST 16, THE AMBASSADOR GRILL-UNITED NATIONS HOTEL. "Don't tell me if you don't like the script," Gwen Kestel says before drafting her Grand Marnier. "I never wrote a play before. I never directed a play before. Don't tell me if you don't like it," she says again.

The script is for the "fashion show" Barwood is presenting at the Studio 54 party which is now only 16 hours away. The 20-inch by 30-inch super-hero-clocks will be presented as "fashions" and Kestel has carefully choreographed each move. The script is 20 pages long, has an innumerable number of stage directions and has never been rehearsal. A dozen dancers, several songs, a kid in a red Atomic dress and wig, a slide show, numerous sound and special effects are all scheduled to come together miraculously in Kestel's seven-minute, one-time-only performance on the Studio 54 dance floor.

Kestel and Faust "read" the play. The idea is to give each character and each clock as much time as the spotlight. The fashion show structure will hopefully keep 300 disco-trained press people entertained in the Super Clocks. There's no Atomic clock in the Barwood line, which will retail between \$20 and \$25, but Kestel wrote the character in because "everyone loves a cute kid."

"Gee," she says, "you know we just have three hours to get everything together. I know it's going to be



terrible. You have to clap for me," she pleads with me and Fred Abramson, an editor at *Newswark*. "Clap loud. Clap long. Clap whether you like it or not. You know the press never claps at these things."

7:10 P.M., AUGUST 16, STUDIO 54. The Super Clocks fashion show finally starts in the crowded, surprisingly atmosphere-free looking disco of the name. It's played by the dance hall's machinery to produce the special effects. The sound is awful. The dancer/models, who look stoned, aren't very good. The model "wearing" the Wonder Woman clock is tall, skinny and hardly the Amazon-born-Paradise-Island type. The model wearing The Hulk clock looks more like Steve Bauer than a green, muscled beast.

But Gwen Kestel gets a break. Since the rightly produced production she introduced is a technical shambles, the audience is confused. The press is forced to focus on the clocks themselves. They like them. They seem, to the press, well-made, exciting and something worth writing about. The Superman model enters from above on a bulky tractor. Handel's Hallelujah Chorus plays in the background. If the press hasn't realized by now that the Super Clocks are more the spoofing *Superman* movie, they've just learned it in a very spectacular way.

Abramson and I clap. A lot. Everyone else looks at us

funny. The press never claps at things like this.

7:20 P.M., AUGUST 16, STUDIO 54. "You did good," I say to Gwen Kestel. She grabs my arm, hugs me and then a torrent of words come out. "You didn't tell me about New York dancers . . . There was a girl here who just didn't know what to do . . . And the DJ just didn't show up . . . We called him six times today . . . He just took the phone off the hook . . . Can somebody get me a glass of white wine . . . They say he's too good to fire. The rehearsal was a disaster . . ."

While Kestel is going on and on, people drift by to congratulate her. Everyone is having fun, except for Sol Harris. The DC president and resident killjoy spends the evening in the back of the disco, looking old and out of place. He is curt and discourteous to everyone. He complains about "comparing" Marvel and DC characters. He leaves early. No one cares.



11:45 P.M., AUGUST 16, BARRIETTA'S RESTAURANT. Peter Faust is throwing a "survival" dinner party for 12 and ordering champagne for everyone. Gwen Kestel is talking about going home to Chicago tomorrow night. "I can't believe," she says with the closest thing to a laugh she has managed to day, "that we actually survived these last couple of weeks without going crazy."

Welcome to comic books, Gwen Kestel.



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3:45 A.M. IN THE ECSTASY DANCE-
HALL, ONE OF NEW YORK CITY'S
HOTTEST DISCO SPOTS--

WHAT?

EXCUSE
ME!

HEY!

WHOSE
THAT?

THE
SOUNDER?

THE
CHARISME?

WHICH
IT,
YOU GUY?

LET THE LADY
THROUGH!

NIGHT LIFE





YOU SCARE ME, YOU KNOW.

WE SCARE EACH OTHER.

TURN RIGHT AT THE END OF THE BLOCK.



NICE NEIGHBORHOOD VERY QUIET.

IT SUITS ME.



REMINDS ME A LITTLE OF MONTMARTRE.

ONLY AT NIGHT, IT'S DIFFERENT DURING THE DAY, BUT YOU WOULDN'T CARE ABOUT THAT THE POINT IS YOUR SEARCH.



FOUR FLIGHTS UP, AND TWO DOORS DOWN--

SORRY ABOUT THE PAPER.

IT'S CHARMING, IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY ACTUALLY LIVES HERE.



I KNOW THIS SCENE, YOU'VE CAPTURED IT WELL.

I'VE PAINTED IT HUNDREDS OF TIMES, THE PLACE CHANGING, FIFTY YEARS AGO.



I WAS YOUNG THEN, AND SO WERE YOU, BUT YOU'RE STILL YOUNG, AND I'VE GROWN OLD.

AND MORE--







RETURN TO THE RIVER. I TOLD YOU TO STAY UNTIL I CALLED YOU.

I COMMAND YOU RETURN TO THE RIVER. IF AS I SAY, DISOBEDIENCE WILL BE PUNISHED.

I WON'T GO BACK. IT'S TOO COLD IN THERE. I NEED WARM BLOOD. GAVE HER TO ME.



WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HER? WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT US HERE?



I HAD MY REASONS. THEY'RE NOT IMPORTANT NOW. I'VE CHANGED MY MIND.



YOU'D BETTER LEAVE ME.



I CAN'T?



HOW VERY YOUNG YOU ARE. YOU KNOW SO LITTLE OF LIFE -- OR DEATH.

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU ARE. I COME YOU NOTHING ELSE MATTERS TO ME.



I LOVE
YOU.

LOVE IS A
WOUND. UNLIKE
ANY OTHER, IT CUTS LIKE
A SWORD, AND THE WOUND
NEVER HEALS.



KEEP YOUR PRECIOUS
INNOCENCE. IT'S NOT A PRIZE
FOR THE LIVES OF MEN. I MUST
SATISFY MYSELF WITH THOSE
WHO ARE LOST ALREADY.

BUT I WAS LOST ALREADY.



AND THE WOUND
HAS YET TO HEAL.



WE MIGHT HAVE
BEEN TOGETHER FOR
EVER. YOU COULD HAVE
GIVEN ME ETERNAL
LIFE.

I COULD HAVE
GIVEN YOU ETERNAL
DEATH.



YOU CAN'T IMAGINE
WHAT IT'S LIKE, THE PAIN
AND LONELINESS THAT
I'VE ENDURED.



WE LIVED WEST OF THE Pecos
NEAR THE TOWN OF WAG-
GAWDAM - NA, PA, SBBY,
CAL AND ME. WE HAD A
RICKETY-BOARD WAGON OUT
ON THE PRAIRIE WHERE WE
RAISED SHEEP.

NOW, ANYONE WHO KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT ANYONE KNOWS THAT
WAGGARDON IS WHERE THE GREAT JUDGE ROY BEAN PRACTICED
HIS FRONTIER JUSTICE AT "THE JERSEY LILY" SALOON.
NAMED AFTER THE BELOVED LILY LANGTRY. I KNOW, I SEEN THE
PLACE...WELL, A PHOTO OF IT IN A MAGAZINE. THAT'S GOT NOTHING
TO DO WITH WHAT HAPPENED TO US...THE KILLINGS AND ALL...
BUT I JUST THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW.

DIME NOVEL HERO!



PA! YOU GOTTA
COME QUICK! THOSE
RIDERS! IT'S MR.
LAWSON AND HIS
GANG.

CAL, GO INTO
THE HOUSE AND
FETCH THAT OLD
SHARPS BUFFALO
GUN 'S BEHIND
THE SOFA.

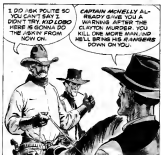
IT'S TOO LATE,
PA. IF I WENT FOR
IT, THAT'D JUST GIVE
EM AN EXCUSE TO
SHOOT US DOWN.

Next Cut 4000 REAR



LO THERE, MR. LAWSON! I CAN'T
STAY BUT A MINUTE. ONLY CAME
BY TO TELL YOU THAT AS BIG
AS THIS GREAT STATE OF
TEXAS IS, THERE AIN'T NUFF
ROOM FOR SHEEP AND
CATTLE. YOU'RE GONNA HAVE
TO GO.

THERE'S ROOM,
MR. LAWSON, FOR
MEN WHAT AIN'T
SPEEDY FOR
IT ALL.



I DO ASK POLITE SO
YOU CAN'T SAY I
DON'T TRY, AND LOSE
HERE IS GONNA DO
THE JERSEY FROM
NOW ON.

CAPTAIN MCWELLY AIN'T
READY GIVE YOU A
WARNING AFTER THE
CLAYTON MURDER. YOU
KILL ONE MORE MAN AND
HELL BRING HIS FANGERS
DOWN ON YOU.

I WOULDN'T THINK OF BREAKING THE LAW, NO, SIR, BUT JUST THE SAME, YOUR SHEEP ARE DOO!



HE WAS QUITE A WOMAN, NOT ONLY DID SHE HAVE NERVES AS COLD AND FINELY TONED AS A STEEL BOWIE KNIFE BUT TO FIRE A SHARPS AND STILL REMAIN STANDING... THAT TOOK MORE STRENGTH THAN MOST MEN HAD.

THE TALKIN' IS OVER AND SO'S YOUR FRIENDLY VISIT, MR. CITTLE BARN.

LOBO, TAKE THAT RIFLE AWAY FROM HER!



ARE YOU CRAZY, LAWSON? CALL HIM BACK, MY WIFE WILL SHOOT YOUR MAN IF HE FORCES HER TO. SHE KNOWS SHE HASN'T ANY CHOICE.



IT'S ALRIGHT, HALL-IDAY, AN'T NOBODY GONNA GIT ALRT, LEAST WAYS, NOT TODAY. THIS IS ONLY A DEMONSTRATION.



YOU TAKE ONE MORE STEP, I WARN YA DOWT.



AFTER THE BOOM OF THE GUN, THE SILENCE WAS CHILLING AND WHAT HE SAW WAS REALLY UNNATURAL. HE STOOD THERE, STARING HARD WITH A KILLING EYE, DEAD EYES. THE EYES OF JIMMY WHEELBY HADSON, OF CURLY BILL BROOKS, OF CLAY ALLISON. HE COULD HAVE KILLED 'EM THERE, WITH HIS ENERVATING GAZE, IF HE WANTED TO.

THAT'S ENOUGH, LOBO. EVEN THESE IGNORANT SHEEP SCUM SHOULD GET MY ADWTF. IF NOT, THEY WILL AFTER TONIGHT.

ALRIGHT, LET'S WAGOO. I DON'T LIKE TO STAY WHERE I AM'N WELCOMED.



YOU DON'T KISS MA, EMMA. HE WAS CLEARLY SHOT IN THE CHEST. HE MUSTA BEEN WEARING SOME KINDA METAL BULLET-PROOF VEST. ONLY WAY TO EXPLAIN IT!

NO, HE WASN'T, PA. FROM WHERE I WAS STANDING, I SAW THE BULLET GO CLEAN THROUGH HIM. IT'S LOBBED IN THE GATE POST BY THE SHEEP PEN.

THEN JUST WHAT IS IT WE'RE DEALING WITH?



THAT NIGHT, THE FIRST OF SEVERAL BANDS STARTED. I WAS UP IN MY ROOM READING ABOUT THE EXPLOITS OF THE FAMOUS FINKERTON DETECTIVE BIG TOM MORRY. WHEN I HEARD A HOWL THAT NEVER CAME FROM THE THROAT OF A COYOTE,



WHAT'S GOING ON, PA?

STAY IN THE HOUSE, EMMA, AND LOOK AFTER YOUR SISTER AND YOUR MA. CAL AND I WILL HANDLE IT.

THERE HE IS, PA. SOME-ONE'S IN WITH THE SHEEP AND IT SEEMS AS IF... GASP... HE'S EATING THEM!

WHEREVER YOU ARE, DON'T GO FOR YOUR GUN. I'VE GOT THE DROP ON YOU SO TURN AROUND REAL SLOW.



FROM MY WINDOW, I SAW IT HIGHLIGHTED IN THE MOONBEAMS. THE THING IN THE PEN. ITS PAWES DRIPPING WITH BLOOD AND SALIVA. ITS PAWS TENACIOUSLY CLUTCHING RAW LAMB'S FLESH. I KNEW FROM MY NOVELS WHAT IT WAS EVEN BEFORE IT HAD TURNED...





THE RAIDS CONTINUED AT EACH OF THE SHEPHERD'S BARRACKS. FOLKS RESISTED AT FIRST TILL THEY GOT A GLIMPSE OF THE WEREWOLF. THEN THEY PACKED UP AND MOVED AWAY, BUT THE ATTACKS DIDN'T STOP AND AT TIMES THERE SEEMED TO BE MORE THAN ONE WOLF.

AS FOR US, WELL, WE STAYED BUT PA WAS NEVER THE SAME. HE WENT AT THE SALOON MORE THAN HE WAS HOME, LEAVING SIBBY, MA AND ME TO TEND THE SHEEP. WE NEEDED HELP, SAID, AND I KNEW JUST WHERE TO SEND FOR IT.



ONE DAY PA WENT INTO TOWN TO REGISTER SIBBY FOR SCHOOL, BUT DOME NIGHTALL, THEY WERE STILL GONE. I HITCHED UP THE BACKBOARD AND WENT LOOKING FOR THEM.

SIBBY? DAMN YOU GIRL, WHAT ARE YOU DOING SITTING OUT HERE? PA'S TAKEN TO HER BED, ILL FROM WORRYING ABOUT YOU AND YOU KNOW SHE'S NEVER BEEN SICK BEFORE.

PA'S INSIDE. HE'S BEEN DAWDLYING ALL DAY AND HE WON'T COME OUT.



I'LL DRAG HIM OUT, SAY, DID YOU KNOW THAT SHERIFF FAT GARRETT, THE MAN WHO SHOT SIBBY THE KID, ONCE STOPPED A FIGHT IN THIS SALOON!

I AMN'T INTERESTED IN HEARING 'BOUT YOUR TEN CENT HEROES. JUST GET PA.

LOOKS AS IF HE WON'T HAVE TO TROUBLE OURSELVES.





OH, PA. HE'S SUCH A PIVOTAL POINT AND I CAN SMELL THE WHISKY FROM HERE. REMEMBER HOW TALL AND STRONG HE ONCE STOOD?

YEAH, I REMEMBER BUT THAT WAS WHEN CAL WAS STILL ALIVE AND THERE WAS PROMISE AHEAD OF US. NOW... I HELP ME LOAD HIM ON THE BACK OF THE WAGON, DISEX.



WAS SAYS WE SHOULD MOVE AWAY TO ARIZONA. IF THE WOLF SHOULD COME BACK, WE'D HAVE NO WAY TO DEFEND OURSELVES AND NOBODY TO CALL ON. THEY'RE ALL GONE.

IF WE CAN HOLD ON FOR JUST A BIT LONGER. I SENT TO THE BRACKS BARBERS FOR HELP.



AGAINST THAT... THING? AIN'T NOTHING CAN KILL IT. WE'D... WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

THE MOON. IT'S FULL. THE WOLF-MAN ALWAYS APPEARS ON THE NIGHT OF A FULL MOON!



LUKE? CAN YOU SEE HIM BY THE ROCKS? HE'S GOING TO AMBUSH US!

QUICK! WAKE UP PA! HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.



PA! PA! THE WOLF'S COMING! LUCAS AND ME DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST IT! PA! WE'RE IN DIRE NEED OF YOU.

WHOA! HOLD ON GIRL, WHOA! STAY CALM.



LUKE!

BUT HE WASN'T AFTER OUR HIDES, LEAST NOT WHILE THERE WAS BETTER GAME ABOUT, I LIKE TO THINK THAT MAYBE THERE WAS ENOUGH OF PA STILL LEFT IN THAT BEAST SO'S HIS FIRST INSTINCT WAS TO DEFEND US.



I FIGURED HOW IT HAPPENED, HOW PA BECAME ONE OF THE DEVIL'S WINGED. IT WAS IN A BOOK, AND IT SAID: "WHOEVER SHALL BE WOUNDED BY A WEREWOLF, AND LIVE, WILL WALK AS A WOLF AND SLAY AS A WOLF."



FINALLY AND LOBO DEWAT THE DEATH SLASH TO PA AND THE GIGANTUAH STRUGGLE ENDED.



THEY FOUGHT FOR WHAT SEEMED LIKE HOURS, TEARING AT EACH OTHER'S HIDE WITH CLAWS AS FIRM AS BOOT HEELS. WE ROOTED FOR PA, BUT AS FAR AS OUR LIVES WERE CONCERNED, I DOUBT IF IT REALLY MATTERED WHO WON.



TRY AND BE BRAVE, SSSY. PA WOULD HAVE WANTED THAT.



JUST HOLD ON THERE, WOLF-MAN. NO ONE'S GOING TO LAY A HAND... PAW ON THOSE TWO YOUNGSTERS WHILE WE'RE HERE.



GRRR!
YOU!



WE FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO YOU, MID LOBO. THIS IS THE END OF YOUR BLOODY TRAIL.



CAPTAIN McNELLY DID CALL YOU JUST LIKE I ASKED HIM TO. I WAS AFRAID HE WOULD LAUGH AT MY LETTER.



HE CALLED US, SON. NOW YOU KNOW WHY I ALWAYS CARRY **SUNNER BULLETS** IN MY GUNS. BEFORE MY RIDING IS OVER, I SWEAR TO RID TEXAS OF ALL OUTLAWS AND WEREWOLVES.

THAT RIGHT.



COURSE, GREAT AS HE WAS, HE COULDN'T GET RID OF ALL THE OUTLAWS. BUT TO THIS DAY YOU WON'T FIND A SINGLE WEREWOLF IN ALL OF TEXAS.

Always Leave 'em Laughing!

THE CLOWNS LEFT EARTH ON A THURSDAY. THEY WENT RELUCTANTLY, AND YOU--CARPENTERS--CLUTCHED TIGHTLY IN HAND BINDLE-STOPS POOPED HEAVILY ON MOTTLED SHOULDERS, PAINTED FACES STRAINING TO MAINTAIN PAINTED SMILES-- BUT NEVERTHELESS, THEY WENT! THEY DIDN'T REALLY HAVE MUCH OF A CHOICE, ACTUALLY.

NOT WHEN SWILING HAD BECOME A *HYPER-REACTOR*, LAUGHING HAD BECOME A *FELONY*, AND CLOWNING-- WELL, SOME SAID *BURNING AT THE STAKE* WAS REALLY *INAPPROPRIATE* PUNISHMENT FOR ANYONE CAUGHT IN THE *ACT!*

OH, THEY GAVE THE CLOWNS A CHANCE TO *RENOVATE* THEIR PATH, OF COURSE-- BUT WHEN MOST OF THEM *REFUSED*, THEY BUILT THE GREAT SILVER ROCKET, AND ORDERED THE CLOWNS *EXILED... TO THE MOON!*



THERE WAS QUITE A ROWDY! THAT FINAL DAY TO WATCH THE CLOWNING AERIAL-- THOUGH IT WAS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT MOST OF THE FOLKS HAD COME TO HEAR THE MINISTER OF CIVIC SOCIETY'S ROUSING ADDRESS...

HE HAD, AFTER ALL, DEVOTED SEVERAL HECTIC WORKING HOURS TO WRITING IT.

AND I ASSURE YOU, MY FRIENDS, THAT HISTORY WILL LONG RECALL AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, REMEMBER WHAT WE DO HERE TODAY!

THERE IS NO LOWER ANY PLACE ON THIS WORLD FOR senseless silliness and meaningless mirth! They are an insult to every clear-thinking man, woman and child!

Aye, my friends, today we banish blatant frivolity from the earth... and have the way for progress!

AFTER RECEIVING A STUNNING Ovation (WHICH WASN'T SWIFTLY CONSIDERED THERE WERE NO SEATS), THE MINISTER STEPPED FROM THE PODIUM-- AND THE CEREMONY BEGAN!

AT A GIVEN SIGNAL, THE MATCH WAS SEALED-- AND THE GREAT GLEAMING ARCADE BURST OPEN ON A FLICKERING FINGER OF FLAME!

THE ROAD OF NUCLEAR THRIVERS FILLED THE LATE EVENING SKY-- AND THE PEOPLE ALL STOOD TRANFIXED AS THE SILVERY SPACECRAFT SWIRLED INTO THE DISTANCE, BECOMING AT LAST LITTLE MORE THAN ANOTHER DAZZLING-TINKLING STAR...

... AND SOON, EVEN THAT HAD FADED!

OH, SON-- LET'S GO HOME. THERE'S NOTHING HERE TO SEE HERE.

WHAT, SON?

I'M SURE SONNA HAS SOMETHING.

I KNOW IT'S FOR OUR OWN GOOD AN' ALL, BUT Y'KNOW WHAT, DAD...?

AND WITH
IN THE
LIMA-SOUND
TRACKCRAFT
THE FEELING
WAS SOME
THAN
ANYTIME...



MAN, I'M SURE
SONNA KISS BARTH!
I HAD SOME REAL
GOOD TIMES
THERE!

I REMEMBER ONCE
IN PEORIA, BACK
WHEN I WAS WITH
RYNDLAND...

FRANKLY, MERRY
ANDREW I DON'T WANT
TO HEAR IT... AND I DON'T
THINK ANYONE ELSE
DOES, EITHER!

HEY, C'MON,
FELLAS-- YOU
AIN'T GONNA
CHANGE ANYTHIN'
BY MOVIN'!

CHEER UP!
LET'S SEE THOSE
SHINING SMILES
YOU'RE ALL SO
FAMOUS FOR!

YOU'RE KIDDING,
RIGHT? WE'VE JUST LOST
OUR AUDIENCE, ANY? WE'VE
JUST LOST OUR WHOLE
DAMN WORLD!

WHAT NEEDS GOOD
NAME DO ANY OF US
HAVE TO SMILE ABOUT?

WE MAY
HAVE LOST OUR
AUDIENCE,
PUNCHELLO
O' BIL, BUT WE
AIN'T LOST OUR
TALENT FOR
THE ABSURD!

WE'RE
STILL
CLOWNS,
PUNCHY!
AIN'T THAT
ENOUGH?



NO... I
GUESS IT
AIN'T

THE LUNAR LANDING WAS RELATIVELY UNEVENTFUL. THERE WERE NO MEMORABLE QUOTES ABOUT "GIANT LEAPS FOR CLOWNSKIND", NO OVERSIZED IMPRINT OF A BIG FLOPPY SHOE PRESSED INTO THE MOON'S DUSTY SOIL.

THE ONLY AUDIBLE SOUND, IN FACT, WAS A SINGLE SIGH OF RESIGNATION.

THE CLOWNS TOOK TURN SWITCHING. AS THE ROBOTS, DONATED BY THE UNIVERSAL TOOL-AND-DIE COMPANY, CONSTRUCTED THE SIMPLE DOWNSY CITY THAT WAS TO BE THEIR NEW HOME...

AND WHEN, AT LAST, THE WORK WAS FINISHED...

"WELL, THIS IS THE PLACE, AL. WE'D BETTER START GETTING USED TO IT. WE'RE GOING TO BE HERE FOR A VERY LONG TIME."

"DON'T SOUND SO WORRIED ABOUT IT, RINCHY. 'RIL, YOU COULD'VE STAYED ON EARTH IF YOU HAVEN'T TO."

"ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS GET BORN A CLOWN, LIKE MOSKOWITZ DID!"

"MOSKOWITZ HAD A WIFE AND NINE CHILDREN TO THINK OF. I DIDN'T HAVE ANYONE BUT ME!"

"AND I'D BE DAMNED BEFORE I'D GIVE THOSE FOLKS BACK HOME THE SATISFACTION!"

"BUT NOW THAT WE'RE FINALLY HERE... WHAT THE HELL ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THE REST OF OUR LIVES?"

"WELL, CONSIDER THE SPARKIN' NEW AUDIENCE WE'VE GOT HERE... THE ROBOTS! WE'LL DO WHAT WE WERE BORN TO DO, PUNCHY."

"...WE'LL CLOWN!!"

IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG TO THROW TOGETHER THREE JOKES, AND SPREAD THE GROUND WITH **BOONKAST!** THEN, WHEN THE ROBOTS WERE ALL SEATED IN THE MAKE-UP STANDS, THE **WHISTLE** BLEW, THE **CALLIOPHE** BEGAN TO PLAY... AND THE CLOWNS WENT INTO THEIR **ACT!**



AND, TO BE HONEST, THEY WERE NEVER BETTER!

THE MEN-IN-MOTLEY WERE JUST ABOUT EXHAUSTED WHEN THEY FINALLY RANG DOWN THE CURTAIN-- AND RECEIVED ONLY A SLIGHT SHATTERING OF POLITE APPLAUSE FOR THEIR PAINS.



IT WAS THE ONE THING THEY HAD NEVER CONSIDERED: YOU SEE, ROBOTS ARE NOTORIOUS FOR LACKING A SENSE OF HUMOR!

THIS WAS YOUR IDEA, ANDREW-- AND I OUGHT TO KILL YOU FOR IT!

AS IF OUR SKIN WASN'T BAD ENOUGH, YOU HAD TO GO AND RUB SALT INTO THE WOUND!



HEY TAKE IT EASY, FUNNY OL' PAL -- YOU'RE WRINKLY THE FABRIC!

EASY? HOW IN HELL CAN I TAKE IT EASY WHEN WE'RE LOSING THE VERY THING WE LET OURSELVES BE CALLED TO PRESERVE...

...OUR ABILITY TO MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH!



WHAT WE ARE... WHAT WE MEAN... IS IT ALL SO GOD-DAMNED TRANSPARENT?

IF IT IS... IF WE'RE ALL JUST SO MUCH FLESH... THEN THEY'LL FORGET US BACK ON EARTH EVENTUALLY. ANDY, I KNOW THEY WILL...

AND I DON'T THINK I COULD LIVE WITH THAT!



WELL, FUNNY OL' PAL, IF THAT'S YOUR ONLY WORRY, DON'T!

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GIVE 'EM SOMETHING TO REMEMBER US BY!

THEY'D BEEN AWWAY THINKING IN THEIR PREVIOUS LIVES, BACK BEFORE THEY HEARD THE CALLING-- DOCTORS, LAWYERS, ARCHITECTS, BELIEVERS, CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS...

A FEW OF THEM WERE SKEPTICAL AT FIRST ABOUT MERRY ANDREW'S SUGGESTION, BUT AT LENGTH, THEY ALL AGREED...

...AND WASTED LITTLE TIME IN PUTTING THE PLAN TO WORK!

AND IT TOOK EVEN LESS TIME FOR THE POLICE BACK HOME TO SET UP AND TAKE NOTICE...

YOU'RE CERTAIN OF YOUR FINDINGS, TECHNICIAN?

POSITIVE, MINISTER! OUR SENSORS HAVE DETECTED A CONCENTRATED SERIES OF ENERGY BURSTS ON THE SURFACE OF THE MOON...

AND OBSERVED A PATTERN THAT THEY MUST BE MAN-MADE!

NATURALLY, A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY WAS CONVENED TO CONSIDER THE FIRE SITUATION...

...AND BY THE LATE AFTERNOON OF THE THIRD DAY, THEY HAD FINALLY REACHED THE FORTHGONE CONCLUSION...

THIS IS OBVIOUSLY A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT BY THOSE CURSED CLOWNS TO GAIN REVENGE AGAINST EARTH FOR THEIR EXILE!

HOW SO, MINISTER?

THE MOON PLAYS A MOST IMPORTANT PART IN OUR DAY-TO-DAY LIVES, MY FRIENDS! IT DRIVES THE LESSER EMOTIONS... IT MAINTAINS THE CELESTIAL BALANCE... IT CONTROLS THE VERY TIDES!

CONSIDER THE AWESOME AMBAGE THAT WOULD RESULT IF THE CLOWNS WERE TO DESTROY THE MOON IN THEIR WARRINESS!

I'M AFRAID THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, MY FRIENDS...

THE CLOWNS ARE PLANNING TO KILL US!!

BUT WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT, MINISTER?

THERE IS ONLY ONE THING WE CAN DO, MY FRIENDS...

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO DESTROY THEM FIRST!!

WITH THE TIRELESS ASSISTANCE OF THEIR BOOBOYS, THE WORK FINISHED AMAZINGLY SWIFTELY -- UNTIL, AT LAST, THE CLONING BREATHED ONE GREAT COLLECTIVE SIGH OF RELIEF...





THEY CAME FROM THE EAST... THREE MEN...

FOLLOWING A PROMISE... SEARCHING FOR A MIRACLE...

HANG ON, BLOODY IT WON'T BE LONG, NOW!

There...
LOOK!

The SIGN

BY GOD, WE FOUND IT!
AT LAST!







AAAGHHH!

SH-YAAM!

BLETT!



THAT'S ONE I OWE YOU CAPT!

JUSHH!...
ALARMS ON
A WEE...

LOWKEY?...
OHGOD
ARROW ON
THE BLADE!



REYNOLDS!
THERE AREN'T
ANY PRIZES
LEFT! I'LL
HAVE TO...

SHHURRY!
PLEASE, BEFORE
IT SHOWS YOU
WAR, CAPT!



BBZAPP!

SHHURRY
CAPT!



OLE

AAIEEEE!



OHGHHH...

THE FORMER
REYNOLDS, BUT
THIS WAS THE ONLY
WAY I COULD
SAVE YOU.



CMON SOLDIER,
OUR SALVATION
AINTS!

C-CAPTN..



...WVE HAVVE
TO B-SAVRY
JACKSON...
S CHONGE?

CRUNCH
MUNCH



B-IT'S TOO LATE,
REYNOLDS! BUT JACKSON'S
...UH... S-ENCOURAGE WILL
GIVE US ENOUGH TIME
TO REACH OUR GOALS!

FOOD!

FOOD!

FOOD!



O-OUR GOAL -- I
GOD, CAPTN.. CAN
IT REALLY B-SAVE
US? CAN ANYTHING
SAVE US, NOW?

YOU MUST
HAVE FAITH,
SOLDIER! FAITH
IN THE OLD
WAYS!

"HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE LEGENDS TOLD US BY OUR FATHERS? WISDOM HANDS'D DOWN BY THEIR FATHERS AND THEIR FATHERS' FATHERS BEFORE THEM?"



"MOST OF THE ANCIENT WAYS HAVE BEEN LOST TO US FOREVER, BUT A FEW SCROLLS REMAIN... AND THEY SPOKE OF POWERFUL MAGES, REYNOLDS."



"SOME, THE OLDEST OF OUR TOWN, CLAIMS THE CIVILS ATTACKED THE BLOWERS..."



"BEFORE THEY COULD UNLEASH THEIR MAGIC..."



"... AND NOW, IT'S UP TO US, REYNOLDS! TO US!"

"Y-YES! WE'VE REACHED THE HOLY GROUND!"





REYNOLDS,
LOOK HERE!
I'VE FOUND
A TEMPLE!



HELP ME
MELT THIS ICE
AWAY! FOR SURELY,
WITHIN, WE WILL
FIND THE PROPER
INCANTATIONS...



... TO AWAKEN
OUR SLUMBERING
GOD!

BY THE ANCIENTS, IT'S
DARK! AS NIGHT
IS THERE, CAP'N!



BLAM!
KA-POW!

GET DOWN,
CAP'N! THE
CYBES HAVE
TRACKED US
DOWN!

COME ON,
REYNOLDS,
WE--

BLAM!
KA-POW!



AND ONE OF
US HAS GOT TO
SURVIVE! FOR OUR
GOD--GAW!

F-FOR...
OUR
GODS!!!

KA-POW!

BLAM!



HENRY,
MAN... YOU!

BZZAP

YOU GO AHEAD,
CAP'N! I'LL HOLD 'EM
OFF, LONG AS I CAN
SIDE. I WOULDN'T BE
MUCH HELP IN THERE
ANYWAY WITH JUST
ONE ARM!

WHILE REYNOLDS HEROICALLY DEFENDED THE LAUNCH SITE AGAINST THE ATTACKING CIVIES.

BY ALL THAT'S HOLY! THE JUDGMENTS!

IF ONLY YOU COULD SPEAK, MENTOR! COULD GUIDE MY HANDS! THERE IS SO LITTLE TIME!

YET STILL YOU SHARD THIS, EVEN IN DEATH! IT MUST BE THE KEY!



I-IF ONLY YOU COULD GIVE ME A...



...I-SONA-!!

HHHHHHH

PRaise BE! YOU HEAR... YOU GRANT MY PRAYERS! GOD AWAKENS! HE--



RRRRR... GASP!!



AND... I WAS... SO... GEDDE... NO...

DYING, SWAN CRASHED FORWARD, INTO THE REAR CORNER SLUMPED ACROSS THE CONTROL CONSOLE, JARRING THE DISTERRED HAND.



AGAINST THE SWITCH LABELED AUTO-DESTRUCT.



RRRRRRMMMMMM

IMAGINE POWER ENOUGH TO ATOMICALLY DELIGHT A DYING SUN...

THEN TRY TO IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD DO TO A FROZEN WORLD OF ICE AND SWIRLING FLAKES OF SNOW!



KRAKA

WHOMM

EPILOGUE:

THEY CAME FROM THE EAST... THREE MEN...

...FOLLOWING A PROPHECY... SEARCHING FOR A MIRACLE...



THERE!
LOOK!



"THAT STAR? IT SHINE SO BRIGHTLY OVER BETHLEHEM!"



IT IS A STAR! A SIGN FROM GOD ON HIGH! LET US HASTEN FORTH MY FRIENDS FOR OUR SAVIOR BORN!

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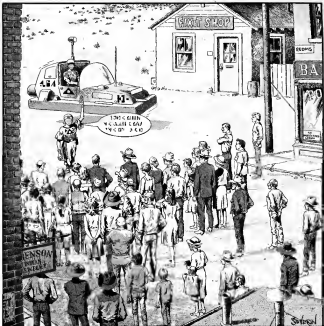


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Is it a bird?
Is it a plane?
No it's...
Krypton's
man
of steel!

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VISIT TO A PRIMITIVE PLANET







THE MARRIAGE WAS FAILING, THAT MUCH WAS OBVIOUS. THE LONGER SHE TRIED TO FORCE UPON HAPPINESS, THE MORE PAINFULLY SELF-WACKING HER LIFE BECAME. SHE'D AWAKENED THIS MORNING IN THE STYLISH HOTEL ROOM AND CONFRONTED IT WITH A GRIM CERTAINTY... A CLARITY THAT BECAME EVEN MORE CRYSTALLINE THROUGHOUT THE LONG SINGLE-ENGINE FLIGHT HERE TO THE AIRFIELD STATION AT THE EDGE OF THE GREAT SWAMP. THE SWAMPY YOUTH WAS THAT SHE DESPERATELY WANTED CHILDREN... AND ROBERT MOST EMPHATICALLY DID NOT.



NOW THEN...
LESSER WHAT WE
GOT HERE ...

DR AND MRS
ROBERT GENTRY... SEE
HERE YER A ENT...
ENTOM...

ALL THE DAYS OF KIDDING HERSELF HERE
THROUGH, HER LIFE WAS A MELLOW, EMPTY
THING... THEIR MARRIAGE A PALE, LISTLESS
PHANTOM. SHE WANTED TO SCREAM, TO CRY,
TO BEAT UPON SOMETHING IN HER FRUSTRATION.

INSTEAD, SHE WATCHED DEFEAT-
ENLY OUT THE STATION WINDOW
AS THE F REEFER PILOT LIFTED
THE BU ZING CESSNA AMPHIBIAN
ABOVE THE TURBID, GREEN SWAMP
WATER... AND INTO THE DARK FLORIDA
SKY...

The SUMMONING

ENTOMOLOGIST
I WAS SENT FROM THE CITY
TO EVALUATE THE RISE IN FIRE
ANT POPULATION OUT HERE.
THEY MUST HAVE TOLD YOU
ABOUT ME. MY CREDENTIALS
ARE ALL THERE...

UH-HUH, BUT WHAT
THEY SHOULDN'T TELL ME WUZ
THAT YOU WUZ A BRINSKY A
WOMAN WITH YOU. THAT'S A
MIGHTY BIG SWAMP OUT
YONDER, DOC. MIGHTY
DANGEROUS TOO.

JES SO'S HE SHOU-
STAND EACH OTHER, DOC... I
AIN'T RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU,
THE ANTISS OF THE DOC THERE
ONCE YOU GET FOOT OUTSIDE
THE STATION. PEOPLE DIS-
APPEAR IN THAT PEST
HOLE EVERY YEAR AND
I AIN'T--

MY WIFE IS A FINELY
TRAINED OUTDOORSMAN. I
ASSURE YOU, PARTICULARLY
REGARDING SOUTHERN MARSH-
LAND, NOW IF YOU DON'T MIND,
YOU HAVE A LADMON WAITING
FOR US. WE'VE A LOT TO GET
DONE TODAY!

WE UNDERSTAND
PERFECTLY. NOW IF
YOU'LL JUST SHOW US
TO THE DOCK...!



SHE'S GOT A FULL TANK AND A NEW SET OF GARS. I CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE YOU A SHINE-- GAS IS SCARCE OUT THIS FAR. STAY OUT AFTER SUNDOWN AND YER ON YER OWN. I DONT GO OUT IN THE SWAMP AFTER DARK.

WATCH YER STEP W'AM.



HAH-HAH!... KEEP A POLLY!... DOC SHE NEEDS A LITTLE 'ARMAN' SOMETHIN. HAH-HAH!



DONT GET YER FEET WET, DOC! HAH-HAH!

THE LOCAL PERSONALITY-BOY...

WAW. IT'LL BE A PLEASURE TO GET BACK AMONG THE PIT WIPERS AND BLOOD SUCKERS!



WHAT ARE YOU DOO?

I DONT KNOW. HE WAS AWAYVIVE ALL THE TIME WE WERE AT THE STATION, SCRATCHING AT THE DOOR...

YOU SWELL A PORCUPINE, BOO



WHAT NOW?

MAYBE YOU'D BETTER CHECK THE MAP. I THINK THE HEADLAND IS SOUTH...

CHECKING CHECKING...



BOO! QUIET!



BOO! BOO! COME BACK, BOY!



BOO, COME BACK!

HEY! ARE YOU NUTS? THAT MARSH IS FULL OF COPPER HEADS!

SIT BACK AND FIND YOUR WHISTLE. WE'LL FOLLOW HIM ALONG THE SHORE-LINE



BOO! HERE BOY!

HE WON'T GO FAR, HE NEVER DOES.



OH, ROBERT, IT'S BEEN HORRORS!

CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT, HE NEVER RUNS OFF LIKE THIS... MUST'VE FLUSHED A DEER...!

BOO! BOO!
OH GOD, ROBERT, WHAT IF SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM? A WOLVERINE OR--

I HATE TO FILE BAD NEWS ON BAD BUT WE'VE GOT PROBLEMS OF OUR OWN: THE TANK'S ALMOST EMPTY AND WE'RE LOST!



I KNOW, I KNOW WE WOULDN'T BE HERE NOW IF I'D TAKEN THAT JOB IN SEATTLE AND YOU'D KEPT THE BABY...

YOU SAID IT, NOT ME

BUT YOU WERE THINKING IT. GOD, IT'S GETTING DARK TO BOO!



LET'S SEE... THE SUN SETS IN THE WEST AND THE RANGER STATION WAS NORTH OF...

ROBERT, ROBERT, LOOK...!





WHAT DO YOU THINK?

A SWAMPY'S CABIN, I'D SAY PROBABLY ABANDONED...

STILL, THERE MIGHT BE SOMEBODY AROUND...



IT'S EITHER THAT OR RISK FINDING OUR WAY BACK TO THE STATION IN THE DARK...

HELLLOOOO??

ANYBODY AROUND??



AND YOU REMEMBER WHAT LAUGHING BOY SAID ABOUT THE SWAMP AT MARY'S C'MON!



UGH, IT'S EXACTLY!

YEAH, BUT EVEN IF NEVER THE LESS, GREG'S POTS STILL WARM.



BOO! HERE BOY!

JEAN, WILL YOU FOR GOD'S SAKE KNOW IT OFF? THE DOG IS GONE? HELP ME LOOK FOR SOME MATCHES, WILL YOU?



SCREE

HAH--?



WHAT THE HELL
YOU DOIN' IN MAH
CABIN?

WE...WE'RE
LOST. WE'RE SEEKING
DIRECTIONS.

UH...IM OR
ROBERT GENTRY,
THIS IS MY PIPE.
JEAN...WE WORK
FOR THE CITY.

LOST
HUH?

THE SHERIFF
SENT YOU, DID
HE?

SHERIFF? NO.
I'M A SCIENTIST. I--
WE WERE STUDYING THE
INSECT LIFE IN THE VICINITY.
OUR MAP WAS OUT OF
DATE APPARENTLY. WE
STUMBLED ON YOUR
GHA-- YOUR HOUSE.

SCIENTIST,
HUH?

DON'T NO ONE TELL
YOU TO STAY OUTTA THIS PART
AT THE SWAMP AT NIGHT?
DIDN'T NO ONE TELL YOU 'BOUT
THIS HERE AREA?

YOU BEST TAKE
THE LITTLE LADY THERE
AND GET THE HELL OUTTA
HERE, MISTER. YOU BEST
GIT RIGHT AWAY WHILE
THERE'S STILL TIME!

RIGHT! SURE!
WHATEVER YOU SAY!
WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY!
THANKS SO MUCH!
SORRY FOR THE IN-
CONVENIENCE! COME,
DEAR.

YOU DON'T EVEN
KNOW WHERE THE HELL
YOU GOIN', DO YOU? YOU
ABOUT AS LOST AS A NEW
BORN PUP, BOTH OF YOU.

NEVER MIND, IT'S
TOO LATE NOW ANYWAYS.
YOU BEST STAY BOLT THE
DOOR THERE AND I'LL PUT
SOME GRAB ON THE SWAMP
WORKS. LADY, IF YA
WANNA WASH UP.

REALLY WE
DON'T WANT TO BE
ANY TROUBLE, IF YOU'D
JUST BE KIND ENOUGH TO
DIRECT US TO THE
RANGER STATION--

YOU WOULDN'T
GET REAL? MAY--NOT NOW
--NOT AFTER DARK. MAKE
YOURSELF TO HOME. I AINT
GONNA BITE YA, YOU KIN
HEAD OUT IN THE MORNIN'.

AN EXCELLENT MEAL, MR HENKLE!

YES, DELICIOUS, THANK YOU. DO YOU MIND MY ASKING, ARE YOU... ALL ALONE HERE?

NOT HALF AS MUCH AS I WUZ, MAM. SHE DIED BEIN' ONLY SEVEN MONTHS OLD... RIGHT HERE IN THIS CABIN... RIGHT THERE ON THAT BED...

AN WOM, TWANT ALWAYS GO... HAD A WIFE ONCE, PRETTIEST THING YOU EVER DID SEE, DID HEAR... FIFTYFEY YEARS AGO NOW.

LORD... I CAN STILL SEE HER FACE... THE WAY... THE FEAR...



I'M SO SORRY.



SHE WAS ONLY SEVEN MONTHS ALONG AN' NOTHIN' CLEARED AWAYNS. JD BEEN IN TOWN, FEW DAYS SUPPLIS. AT FIRST, I THOUGHT SHE'D COME AN' PAINTED THE ROOM RED...

CNDY, HONKEY...?

SHE WUZ ALONE, THE CHILD WUZ GONE, A BLOOD-SMUTT FEARP TRAILLED THRU THE WINDOW INTO THE MARSH. COURSE, I FIGURED, TOOK THE CHILD RIGHT AFTER BIRTH...



BUT WE'D CLEARED ALL THE BIG CUTS OUTTA THE SWAMP YEARS AGO...



THEN, BOUT A MONTH LATER, THE FIRST SHEEP TURNED UP WITH THEIR THROATS'S SLIT, ME SCURED THE COUNTRY'S DE... ONLY IT WAZNT SO EASY TRACKIN' IN THE SWAMP.

WHATEVER IT WAS, KEPT JUST AHEAD OF US THEN THE REAL NIGHTMARE BEGAN. NEIGHBOR WIDS STARTED DISAPPEARING, SOONER OR LATER WE FOUND 'EM ALL... WHAT WUZ LEFT OF 'EM.



IN THE BACK OF MY MIND SOMETHIN' AWFUL WUZ GOIN'... SOMETHIN' AWESOME, BUT I JUST HUNT WILLYN' TO BELIEVE IT COULD BE POSSIBLE.



MY GOD!

THEN ONE EVENIN' I COME UPON IT OWSHWAYS...

I GOT ONLY A BRIEF GLIMMSE OF IT, AN' I AIN'T SLEPT RIGHT SINCE... MOSTLY I REMEMBER THAT HUGE MOUTH DRIPPIN' SALIVA AN' THE LUMPY DEFORMED BODY.



I SCREAMED AND RAN...

THE THING OWNED ME THROUGH THE BLADES FOR MILES! IT WUZ LIKE A LIVIN' NIGHTMARE!! I AIN'T NEVER KNOWED FEAR LIKE THAT. I CUD HEAR IT A CRASHIN' THROUGH THE BRUSH AFTER MR. SHORTIN' AND SPOVIN' LIKE AN ANIMAL!

I CUD SEE THE AMBER BUT BOWIN' GAVE ANY SECOND THERE WUZ DAILY DAMP FLIES LEFT TO RUM. I THREW BACK THE LID ON THE TRAMP DOOR AND LEAPED INTO THE CELLAR...



WHEN I REACHED THE CABIN I BOLTED THE DOOR BEHIND ME IN THE NICK OF TIME-- YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW FAST IT COULD MOVE. IN A SECOND THE THING WAS SLAMMIN' AGAINST THE DOOR, RAMMIN' AND CLAWIN' AND SCREAMIN' IT'S AWFUL SCREAM!



I GOT Huddled IN THERE SHAKIN' AND GUNNIN' AND LISTEN TO THE THING SCREAMIN' AND ZIPPIN' AND TAPPIN' OVER FURNITURE ABOVE ME. THEN ALL AT ONCE IT WUZ GONE!! I LAY AGAINST THE DOOR EARL'NIGHT NIGHT HARDLY DARN' TO BREATHE.

THE THING HAD GONE BUT NOT AFORE TAKIN' SOMETHIN' WITH IT. THE DAY BEFORE I'D SHOT AND SKINNED A SPRING BUCK. IT WUZ AWAY FROM MY WALL.

ONCE A MONTH NOW I KILL A BUCK DEER AND LEAVE THE CARCASS ON THE DOOR STEP OUTSIDE AFTER SUN-DOWN. THE CREATURE ONLY COMES OUT AFTER DARK-- IN NIGHTS FEAR IT IN THE AFOREMIDT HOURS.



TOWARD DAWN I FINALLY GOT AWAKE ENOUGH TO PEEK OUT.



IT WUZ THEN I KNEW WHAT THE CREATURE WUZ AND HOW TO DEAL WITH IT...



THEN, I CALL THE CREATURE, LOCK THE DOOR AND WAIT... IN THE MORNIN' THE DEER CARCASS IS ALWAYS GONE... AND WE AIN'T HAD A MISSIN' PERSON OR PET DOG ROUND HERE PER MONTHS!



THANK GOD FOR THAT... BUT YOU SAID THE CREATURE WAS BLIND AND DEAF... HOW CAN IT HEAR YOU CALL?

THERE'S ONLY ONE SOUND IT HEARS... ONE NOISE THAT'LL BRING IT... I USED TO HAVE A PACK OF HUNTIN' DOGS.



OH MY GOD... A DOG HOWLER!

THAT'S THE SAME!









I BEEN WORRIED
SICK ABOUT YOU PEOPLE!
THAT RELIEF PLAT FROM THE
CITY COME AND SOME ALREADY!
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU FOLKS
NOT TO STAY OUT IN THE
SWAMP AFTER NIGHT!



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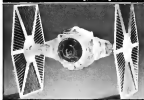
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X-WING FIGHTER Push down R2-
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